Amendments to the Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of accelerating catalyst aging comprising the step of exposing a catalyst material comprising manganese or an oxide of manganese to a continuous flow of ~~a~~ an ambient temperature gaseous composition, the gaseous composition comprising a substance which deactivates the catalyst material.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the catalyst material further comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of base metals and oxides thereof; alkaline earth-based adsorbents; platinum metal group catalysts and oxides thereof; carbon adsorbents; silica adsorbents; and zeolite adsorbents.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the catalyst material further comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of cobalt, iron and nickel, and oxides thereof; Ca-, Ba- and Sr-based adsorbents; Pt-, Pd- and Rh-based catalysts; carbon adsorbents; silica adsorbents; and zeolite adsorbents.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the catalyst material comprises cryptomelane.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the gaseous composition comprises ~~ambient~~ air not heated above ambient conditions.

6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the gaseous composition comprises an aerosol.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the gaseous composition comprises particulate matter.

8. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the gaseous composition comprises ambient air.

9. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein the exposing step lasts at least two weeks.

10. (currently amended) A method of accelerating catalyst aging comprising the step of exposing a catalyst material comprising manganese or an oxide of manganese to a substantially continuous

flow of ~~a~~ an ambient temperature gaseous composition, the gaseous composition comprising a substance which deactivates the catalyst material.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the catalyst material further comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of base metals and oxides thereof; alkaline earth-based adsorbents; platinum metal group catalysts and oxides thereof; carbon adsorbents; silica adsorbents; and zeolite adsorbents.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the catalyst material further comprises at least one material selected from the group consisting of cobalt, iron and nickel, and oxides thereof; Ca-, Ba- and Sr-based adsorbents; Pt-, Pd- and Rh-based catalysts; carbon adsorbents; silica adsorbents; and zeolite adsorbents.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 10 wherein the catalyst material comprises cryptomelane.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the gaseous composition comprises ~~ambient~~ air not heated above ambient conditions.

15. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the gaseous composition comprises an aerosol.

16. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the gaseous composition comprises particulate matter.

17. (original) The method of claim 13 wherein the gaseous composition comprises ambient air.

18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the exposing step lasts at least two weeks.